



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

## Press Release

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CONTACT: BreAnda Northcutt  
(916) 324-9670

### **Climate Action Team and Experts Discuss Biofuels' Role in Reducing Climate Change Emissions**

FRESNO – The Climate Action Team held the fourth of five regional presentations in Fresno to discuss the Climate Action Report released last month. Panelists and members of the working group discussed the role of bio-energy in meeting the Governor's aggressive climate change emission reduction targets.

"As one of the largest contributors of greenhouse gases, it's our moral responsibility to start implementing strategies to reduce climate change emissions here in California," said Dr. Alan C. Lloyd, former Secretary of the California Environmental Protection Agency and chair of the Climate Action Team. "The consequences of climate change on California are significant and may become quite severe. These include an increased threat of wildfires, a decrease in the snowpack, damaged coastlines and an increase in air pollution, disease and pests."

Bio-energy, generated from abundant, biologically-derived renewable materials has the capacity to produce heat, electric power, transportation fuels and other useful products. Bio-energy helps contribute to the state's energy supply and is vital to waste and resource management efforts. Biofuels can be a significant part of our energy mix and will play an important role in meeting the Governor's climate change emission reduction targets.

"The use of renewable biomass residues to produce a varied array of important energy resources and fuels is perhaps the brightest opportunity for California's energy future," said James Boyd, Commissioner and Chairman of the Bio-energy Interagency Working Group, at the California Energy Commission. "The conversion of these residues for energy can help manage agricultural waste and forest material disposal, reducing the strain on growing landfills. It also produces indigenous sources of needed fuels, which can significantly reduce our dependence on petroleum and cut greenhouse gas emissions. This is a win, win, win proposition."

In June 2005, Governor Schwarzenegger signed Executive Order S-03-05, establishing the most ambitious greenhouse gas emission reduction targets of any state or nation in the world. The Order directed Cal/EPA to lead a multi-agency effort to meet the targets, and to report on the progress toward those goals every two years.

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